

## Protocol for Clearing Public Statements

Approved by Alliance States on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

**Communications Group:** A communications group that ~~can~~represents the diversity of Alliance State views will help to screen public statements before they are ahead of being circulated to all Alliance States for clearance~~the whole group~~.

**Non-Policy Statements:** The communications group will ~~clear~~approve~~on~~ statements that do not announce new policies (e.g., press releases announcing new members).

**Unanimous Consent:** Unless otherwise specified in this document, statements by the Alliance will require affirmative, unanimous approval of Alliance States.

**Statements of New Policy:** ~~There was general agreement that if~~any a public statements ~~are~~includes the announcement of a ~~breaking ground on new~~ Alliance policy or policy position~~olicies~~ (e.g., an Alliance-wide ~~or within~~ initiatives or a statement opposing a federal action), then Alliance States ~~asked~~will have~~for~~ 48 hours to decide whether to proceed with drafting on a no-objection procedure (states that want affirmative clearance should notify the Secretariat).

Once a statement is drafted, Alliance State representatives will have 5 days to provide feedback on the statement. The Secretariat will incorporate that feedback and send an updated version to Alliance States for their approval within 10 business days.~~to clear text~~

If this clearance process results in edits from Alliance States, the Secretariat will incorporate edits and send a final version to Alliance States. Alliance States will have 3 business days to approve the final version.~~if~~

**Social Media:** The Alliance will use Twitter as its social media platform, and only the Secretariat will tweet from the Alliance account. Since Twitter is intended for timely~~to~~ responses ~~to time-relevant~~ announcements, ~~there was general agreement that tweets should not require lengthy clearances~~the clearance process is shorter than for press releases and other statements. ~~Most tweets should~~will highlight Alliance actions ~~and~~ individual governor leadership on climate, relying on the Secretariat to use good judgement to avoid controversial topics, rather than requiring clearance by states.

The Alliance will not regularly tweet third-party reports or news articles. Before tweeting about a third-party report, the Secretariat will give states 2 business days to review the tweet. When possible, the Secretariat will~~There was disagreement on what to do about tweeting third-party data (e.g. an energy report).~~ One suggestion to resolve the question was to send a series of tweets ahead of time for clearance.

Examples:

**No clearance:**

- “Governor X announces new offshore wind development”

- “Read our submission to the Talanoa Dialogue here”

**Clearance (tweets sent ahead of time for review in batches)?**

- “U.S. Energy & Employment Report shows that @USClimate States are responsible for nearly half the clean energy jobs in America”
- “IPCC 1.5 degree report shows we need to do more - @USClimate States are committed to meet their share of the Paris goals”

**Actions endorsed by sub-set of Alliance States:** Where the Alliance releases a public statement that reflects action taken by a sub-set of Alliance States, those Alliance states will have 10-business days to clear any text. Other Alliance States will receive the text two in advance of publication, as a courtesy. Such statements will not suggest that all Alliance states are participating in the action, and will indicate that some Alliance states are taking the action~~be written so as to imply Alliance-wide support for the statement.~~

**Time-sensitive:** For public statements that are time-sensitive, there will be an abbreviated clearance process ~~will be utilized, working closely with states to ensure everyone is informed.~~ The Secretariat and Alliance States will ~~There was strong support for limiting limit time-sensitive statements~~ as much as possible ~~time-sensitive statements.~~

**Reports and lengthier documents:** For Alliance reports and other material produced well in advance, Alliance States will be given as much additional time as possible for approval~~beyond the 10-days to clear material. For reports in particular that highlight state action, an iterative process is necessary.~~